

RUSS GRAND DUKES ARE NOW IN EXILE

By Joseph Shaplen.
(United Press Staff Correspondent)
NEW YORK, Sept. 20.—All the Romanoffs have been exiled from Petrograd and vicinity.

Grand Dukes Paul Alexandrovich, Nicolai Michailovitch, Serge Michailovitch, as well as the brother of the wife of Paul Alexandrovitch, Prince Paul Alexandrovitch Palei, on leaving Petrograd took with them only necessaries and books. They took very little baggage with them, due to impossibility of transporting anything cumbersome in Russia. All articles of luxury, art, paintings, religious objects and precious stones belonging to the grand dukes were left in Petrograd.

The Grand Duke Nicolai Michailovitch, who is a noted writer and historian, in fact the only man of big talent produced by the Romanoff dynasty in recent years, left all his writings, memoirs and very rich historical library in the care of a certain prominent Russian writer and politician, who played a big part in the revolution and prominent member of the Russian Historical Society; which, after the revolution, unanimously chose the Grand Duke Nicolai Michailovitch its president.

The grand duke is noted throughout Europe not only as an historian but as an antiquarian and collector.

The palace of Nicolai Michailovitch is a wonderful museum of ancient history, the contents of which he collected from all parts of the world. The grand duke refused to go to Perm, where he has many powerful friends, and preferred to go to Vologda because, he explained, there was a collection of ancient icons and an ancient church there.

The former grand dukes are greatly worried about their property. Particularly under the Bolshevik regime, many of the precious and rare paintings and things of art belonging to the grand dukes have been stolen and scattered throughout Europe. A horseshoe, studded with diamonds, for example, the property of the Grand Duke Andrei Vladimirovitch, and valued at more than 3,000,000 roubles (about \$1,500,000 in normal times) was obtained by a speculator for 3,000 roubles and sold for 350,000 roubles. Fortunately, the horseshoe was recovered through the grand duke's own efforts. The pillow on which Alexander II slept was sold on the Alexandrinski market for 15 roubles, afterwards resold for 50 roubles, and finally located at the home of a cab driver. The handkerchiefs of Catherine II and the former Czarina were sold in the streets of Petrograd at a pouble (13 cents) apiece. A peasant who obtained a handkerchief used by Catherine II, sold it

to a member of the French military mission for 15,000 roubles. Valuable dogs belonging to the Czar were sold at from 10 to 15 roubles each. One dog named "Pili," which accompanied the Czar on all his trips and was the gift of the kaiser, was sold for 2 roubles. The boots of Peter the Great were sold for 20 roubles.

The grand dukes have addressed a special plea to the Bolshevik government for the security of their property. The matter was taken into consideration by the Bolsheviks after much of the property representing part of the cultural estate of the Russian people was stolen.

Only the grand dukes residing in and about Petrograd have been exiled to Vologda and Perm. It is believed, however, that Grand Duke Dmitri Pavlovitch, Rasputin's slayer and son of Grand Duke Paul Alexandrovitch will also go to Vologda in view of the critical illness of his father. Dmitri is now in Teberan, whither he was exiled by the Czar for leading the assassination of Rasputin. The grand dukes residing in Finland and Crimea will not be molested. They will simply have to register. Now that the Germans are in control of these regions, the grand dukes are in their hands.

Grand Duke Nicolai Michailovitch is working hard in Vologda on his memoirs, covering a period of many years, particularly the intrigues at the court during the war and prior to the revolution. Much space will be devoted to the clandestine correspondence between leading members of the court and Germany. The grand duke will prove, on the basis of original documents, that although efforts were made by certain members of the court and government to conclude a separate peace with Germany, there never was such an effort made on the part of the government as a whole.

An English publishing house has offered to publish the book, but the grand duke has refused the offer.

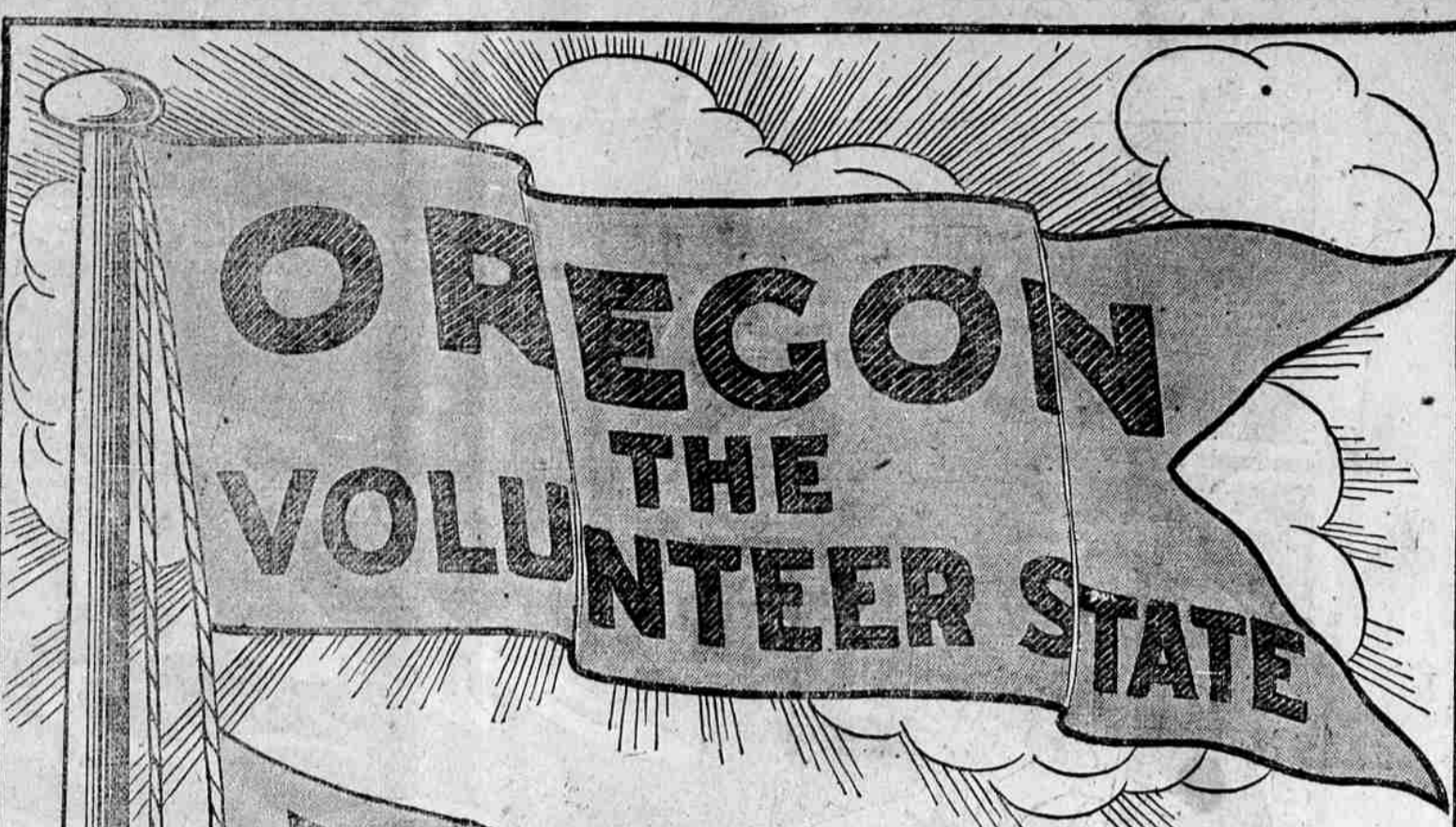
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